R E P O R T R E S U M E S

ED 017 833 AC 002 062

STUDY OF HOME DEMONSTRATION UNITS IN A SAMPLE OF 27 COUNTIES IN NEW YORK STATE, NUMBER 3.

BY- ALEXANDER, FRANK D. HARSHAW, JEAN
STATE UNIV. OF N.Y., ITHACA
STATE UNIV. OF N.Y., ITHACA

PUB DATE MAY 64

EDRS PRICE MF-$0.25 HC-$1.08 25P.

DESCRIPTORS- #EXTENSION EDUCATION, #PARTICIPANT CHARACTERISTICS, #HOMEMAKERS CLUBS, RESEARCH, QUESTIONNAIRES, GROUP MEMBERSHIP, AGE GROUPS, RESIDENTIAL PATTERNS, LOW INCOME GROUPS, EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND, WORKING WOMEN, CHILDREN, OCCUPATIONS, NEW YORK STATE,

AN EXPLORATORY STUDY EXAMINED CHARACTERISTICS OF 1,128 HOME DEMONSTRATION UNITS TO SUGGEST HYPOTHESES AND SCOPE FOR A MORE INTENSIVE STUDY OF A SMALL SAMPLE OF UNITS, AND TO PROVIDE GUIDANCE IN SAMPLING. DATA WERE OBTAINED FROM A SPECIALLY DESIGNED MEMBERSHIP CARD USED IN 1962. UNIT SIZE AVERAGED 23.6 MEMBERS BUT THE RANGE WAS FAIRLY GREAT. A NEED FOR EXAMINING ADJUSTMENTS IN EDUCATION PROCEDURES ACCORDING TO UNIT SIZE WAS IDENTIFIED. AN AVERAGE LENGTH OF MEMBERSHIP WAS 6.7 YEARS WITH A MEAN AGE 42.9 YEARS. THIS SUGGESTS THAT A PROGRESSIVE GRADED PROGRAM OF SUBJECT MATTER MIGHT BE OFFERED AND THAT YOUNGER WOMEN MAY NOT BE ATTRACTED TO UNIT PROGRAMS. RURAL MEMBERS PREDOMINATE A LARGE MAJORITY OF UNITS AND A SMALL NUMBER HAVE A LARGE PERCENTAGE OF URBAN MEMBERS. THIS MAY IMPLY A LACK OF INTEREST IN ATTRACTING LOW INCOME MINORITY GROUPS OF THE CITIES INTO THE PROGRAM. ABOUT ONE FIFTH OF A UNIT MEMBERS HAVE MORE THAN HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION, AND A MAJORITY OF UNITS HAVE WORKING MEMBERS. (OTHER CHARACTERISTICS AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS DISCUSSED ARE ORGANIZATIONAL ACTIVITIES, AGE OF CHILDREN, AND OCCUPATIONS OF HUSBANDS. THE MEMBERSHIP QUESTIONNAIRE CARD IS INCLUDED IN THE APPENDIX.) (PT)

ED017833

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
OFFICE OF EDUCATION

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN REPRODUCED EXACTLY AS RECEIVED FROM THE PERSON OR ORGANIZATION ORIGINATING IT. POINTS OF VIEW OR OPINIONS STATED DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT OFFICIAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION POSITION OR POLICY.

STUDY OF HOME DEMONSTRATION UNITS IN A SAMPLE OF 27 COUNTIES IN NEW YORK STATE

Extension Study No. 3

Office of Extension Studies
New York Extension Service
State Colleges of Agriculture and Home Economics
Units of the State University
At Cornell University
Ithaca, New York

May 1, 1964

HE002062

Authors: Frank D. Alexander, Administrative Specialist in Extension Studies, Cornell University, and Jean Harshaw, Statistical Clerk.

PREFACE

In New York State, the unit has been one of the major channels through which county home demonstration agents have conducted educational work among homemakers. From time to time, both the home demonstration State leaders and the county agents have raised searching questions regarding the effectiveness of the unit as an educational medium. Because they have been critical of its effectiveness, these workers have sought to revitalize the unit and, at the same time, have undertaken new approaches for conducting educational programs with women whether as homemakers or as responsible participants in organizations, in businesses, or in the professions.

Previous studies of women participating in the home demonstration units have focused on the characteristics of the total county or state membership but little attention has been given to the unit as a group of women who are jointly participating in an educational program. This study is an initial step in this direction. The characteristics of the unit are its concern. Because the data for the study were the characteristics of individual members, averages for each unit relative to these characteristics and percentages of the unit's membership possessing certain characteristics are the kinds of statistics which are presented.

It is believed that this limited examination of the characteristics of the units not only emphasizes the need for a study in greater depth but also provides guidelines for designing such a study. In view of the concern of home demonstration workers with revitalizing the unit as well as finding new approaches for educational work with women, the findings of this larger study would be especially helpful in developing plans for revitalization efforts as well as inventing new approaches. It is anticipated, therefore, that this more basic study will be initiated in the near future.

T A B L E O F C O N T E N T S

	Page
Summary of Findings and Related Questions or Implications	1
Introduction	3
Characteristics of Units	5
Size of units and number of members	5
Length of membership	5
Place of residence of members	8
Age of members	9
Years of school completed by members	10
Work of members outside of the home	10
Organizational activity of members	10
Percentage of members' children according to age . .	13
Percentage of husbands of members according to occupation	15
Combinations of occupations of members' husbands . .	17
Appendix A	21

STUDY OF HOME DEMONSTRATION UNITS IN A SAMPLE OF 27 COUNTIES IN NEW YORK STATE

Summary of Findings and Related Questions or Implications

The characteristics of 1,128 home demonstration units in a sample of 27 New York Counties are considered in this study. The characteristics of the units are based on information obtained from 1962 membership cards.

Size of units: The average[1] size of unit membership is 23.6, but the range in size is fairly large, from one to 194 members.

Questions or implications: The average size of units would seem to indicate manageable groups for educational purposes, but the wide range in size points to the need for examining the adjustments in educational procedures which the variety of unit sizes would seem to require.

Length of membership: The average unit had an average length of membership of 6.7 years, but the range for average length of membership is large, from a class interval of 0.1 - 0.9 to 23.0 - 23.9 years.

Questions or implications: For units whose average length of membership is long, relevant questions are: (1) Have not a large segment of the members been exposed to many of the offerings of home demonstration and, therefore, are they not now ready for graduation; (2) If women are going to remain in units for a long time, should not considerable attention be given to progressive grading of subject matter offerings? For units whose average length of membership is relatively short, what kinds of teaching and subject matter are most appropriate?

Place of residence of members: Nonurban (exclusive of farm women) predominate in a large majority of the units with only a small number of units having large percentages of urban members.

Questions or implications: Does the small number of units with any large percentage of urban members reflect

---

[1] Throughout the study average = mean.

the inability or lack of interest of home demonstration workers in attracting low income and minority ethnic groups of cities where these groups are frequently an important segment of the population?

Age of members: On the age scale unit memberships are in the direction of middle age with the average unit having an average age for members of 42.9 years.

Questions or implications: Are the unit programs and organization such that they fail to attract younger women? Is it possible that a survival phenomenon is occurring where, with the decline of unit memberships, those who remain are the older women who have a strong loyalty to home demonstration work as expressed in the functions of the units?

Years of school completed by members: Emphasis in the analysis is placed on the percent of women completing more than twelve years of school (or more than high school). Slightly over one-fifth of the average unit's members have gone beyond high school. Most of the units have some women with training beyond high school.

Questions or implications: The presence of members in units with education beyond high school would seem to suggest utilization of these women for project teaching. The presence of a number of them in individual units would appear to indicate the need for upgrading subject matter.

Work of members outside of the home: A good majority of the units had some women in their membership who worked outside the home.

Questions or implications: This mixture of women not working and working outside the home may create problems of scheduling meetings as well as cross-currents of interests and needs.

Organizational activities of members: The average unit has a membership with an average of 1.2 organizations in which they consider themselves active.

Questions or implications: While some units have memberships where competition with other organizations may be serious, this is hardly true of a good majority of them.

Percentages of members' children according to age: Generally, between one-third and two-fifths of the members in the average unit will have children in at least one of four age groups, i.e., under 6, 6 to 12, 13 to 19, and 20 and over.

Questions or implications: Each unit tends to be a composite of women with varied responsibilities for children which may call for considerable flexibility in projects dealing with child development particularly, and possibly in clothing, nutrition, and home management.

Percentage of husbands of members according to occupation: The highest percentage of husbands in the average unit is found in the professional class,[1] whereas the occupations with small percentages are clerical, service, and laborers. There are only a few units whose members' husbands are all in one occupational class.

Questions or implications: Can the unit be used to reach the occupational groups which are not now well represented in unit membership? What is the character of a one occupational unit? Does this kind of unit make for an effective educational medium?

Combinations of occupations of husbands: The professional and craftsmen classes are represented in nearly all units; the clerical in two thirds of them; the farmers in a little over half; the service in only one-third; and laborers in a little over one-fifth.

Questions or implications: The meaning of the occupationally heterogeneity of the units can only be conjectured. At least it would seem, in some instances, to present problems of common interests and needs.

Introduction

This is an exploratory study to ascertain a limited number of characteristics of home demonstration units which might suggest hypotheses and scope for a more intensive study of a relatively small sample of units. It was also anticipated that the study would provide guidance in sampling for the more intensive study.

---

[1] Only the first listed occupation of those composing each of the six major occupational classes used in the study appears in the text. See Table 9 for the specific occupations composing the six major classes.

A fifty percent random sample, or 27 of the 55 counties having Home Demonstration Departments, was selected for the study. The data were obtained from a specially designed membership card that was filled out by the members as they enrolled in 1962 (See Appendix A for card form). These membership cards were obtained not only from the sample counties but also from 17 additional counties. Because of inadequate returns from seven of the sample counties, it was necessary to substitute for these from the 17 additional counties. This was done by matching roughly the substitute counties with those for which the registration data was inadequate.

The 27 counties had a total of 1,356 units. Because of inadequate data on the membership cards, it was considered necessary to eliminate units for which large percentages of the women gave no information. Accordingly, considering the eleven items (i.e., number of years of membership, place of residence, age, number of years of school completed, work outside of home, number of organizations in which active, number of children under six, number of children 6-12, number of children 13-19, number of children 20 and over, and occupation of husbands) which were chosen for use in the study, it was decided that units would be discarded which had six or more of the eleven items with twenty-five percent or more of the members giving no information for them. In addition, any unit having one or more of the eleven items for which forty-one percent or more of the women in the unit gave no information was eliminated. After 228 units were discarded, 1,128 units remained for inclusion in the study.

Since the registration data were on individual members, it was necessary to convert this data into statistics that described the units to which the individuals belonged. Nine basic characteristics of the units resulted from this conversion, i.e., (1) average (mean) number of years of membership per unit; (2) units as characterized by place of residence of members; (3) average (mean) age of members per unit; (4) units characterized by percent of members completing more than 12 years of school; (5) units characterized by percentage of women working outside the home; (6) average (mean) number of organizations in which members of each unit were active; (7) units characterized by percent of children under 6 years of age, 6-12 years of age, 13-19 years of age, and 20 years of age and over; (8) units characterized by

percent of husbands of members according to six occupational classes; and (9) units characterized by combinations of occupations of members' husbands.

Characteristics of Units

Size of units and number of members

The average[1] size of the 1,128 units included in this study was 23.6 members (Table 1). The size range is from one to 194. The model class, 11 to 20 members, contains 488 units, or 44 percent of the total number. While there are a number of large units, 15 had over 70 members, these large units constitute only a negligible percentage of the total number. Furthermore, these large units only account for five percent of the 26,599 members in the 1,128 units.

Unless it is assumed that attendance at unit meetings is fairly high, it would appear that the average size of 23.6 is a manageable group for educational purposes. Certainly, there may be some question about the size of some of the larger groups, especially for purposes of discussion. The wide range in size, however, points to the need for examining the adjustments in educational procedures which the variety of unit sizes would seem to require.

Length of membership

The average unit had an average length of membership of 6.7 years (Table 2). The range for average length of unit membership is considerable, from class interval 0.1 - 0.9 years to 23.0 - 23.9 years.

From the distribution in Table 2, it is obvious that there are a goodly number of units, 214, whose average length of membership is 10 or more years. For this group of units, the question might be raised: Have not a large segment of the members been exposed to many of the offerings of home demon-

---

[1] Throughout the study average = mean.

Table 1. Number and Percentage Distribution of Home Demonstration Units and Members for Sample of 27 Counties In New York State According to Number of Members In Units: 1962

Number of Members In Units	Units		Members	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1 - 10	78	7	636	2
11 - 20	488	44	7801	30
21 - 30	347	31	8568	33
31 - 40	126	11	4369	16
41 - 50	40	4	1789	7
51 - 60	20	2	1076	4
61 - 70	14	1	921	3
71 - 80	4	a	293	1
81 - 90	5	a	419	2
91 - 100	2	a	190	1
101 - 110	1	a	104	0
111 - 120	1	a	115	0
121 - 130	1	a	124	0
194	1	a	194	1
Total	1,128	100	26,599	100
Mean	23.6			

[a] Less than 1.0 percent

Table 2. Number and Percentage Distribution of Home Demonstration Units for Sample of 27 Counties In New York State According to Mean Number of Membership In Units: 1962

Mean Number of Years of Membership in Units	Number of Units	Percent
None (new members)	23	2
0.1 - 0.9	22	2
1.0 - 1.9	66	6
2.0 - 2.9	112	10
3.0 - 3.9	122	11
4.0 - 4.9	101	9
5.0 - 5.9	129	11
6.0 - 6.9	106	9
7.0 - 7.9	88	8
8.0 - 8.9	76	7
9.0 - 9.9	70	6
10.0 - 10.9	48	4
11.0 - 11.9	34	3
12.0 - 12.9	29	3
13.0 - 13.9	18	2
14.0 - 14.9	20	2
15.0 - 15.9	20	2
16.0 - 16.9	17	2
17.0 - 17.9	4	a
18.0 - 18.9	6	1
19.0 - 19.9	5	a
20.0 - 20.9	5	a
21.0 - 21.9	5	a
22.0 - 22.9	1	a
23.0 - 23.9	1	a
Total	1,128	100
Mean	6.7	

[a] Less than 1.0 percent

stration and, therefore, are they not now ready for graduation? Or, if this question doesn't apply, perhaps another does: If women are going to remain in units this long, should not considerable attention be given to the progressive grading of the subject matter offerings?

On the other hand, if the other end of the distribution is considered, there are 223 units whose average length of membership is under three years. For units whose members have such short exposures, what kinds of teaching and subject matter are most appropriate?

Place of residence of members

According to Table 3, units with a majority of their members in urban places are relatively few. Non-urban, exclusive of farm members, i.e., small town, suburban (outside metropolitan areas), and rural non-farm members,[1] predominate in a large majority of the units.

The small number of units with large percentages of urban members may possibly reflect the inability or lack of interest of home demonstration workers in attracting low income and minority ethnic groups of cities where these groups are frequently becoming an important segment of the population.

Table 3. Number and Percentage Distribution of Home Demonstration Units for Sample of 27 Counties In New York State According to Place of Residence of Members of the Units: 1962

Place of Residence	Number of Units	Percent
Over 50 percent of unit members urban	186	16
Under 50 percent of unit members urban	940	84
50 percent urban and 50 percent non-urban	2	a
Total	1,128	100

[a] Less than 1.0 percent

[1] Farm women are not included in this reference to non-urban members, because there is evidence in Table 9 that farm women constitute a small percent of the total membership of most units.

Age of members

The average home demonstration unit had a membership in 1962 whose average age was 42.9 years (Table 4). This would seem to indicate that on the age scale unit memberships are in the direction of middle age. Only 50 units, or four percent of the total, have a membership young enough for the average age of the members to be under 30. On the other hand 231 units, or about one-fifth of the total, have members whose ages average 50 years or more.

This middle-aged characteristic of the units suggests that their programs and organization fail to attract younger women. It may be that a survival phenomenon is occurring where, with the declining of unit memberships, those who remain are the older women who have a strong loyalty to home demonstration work as expressed in the functions of the units.

Table 4. Number and Percentage Distribution of Home Demonstration Units for Sample of 27 Counties In New York State According to Mean Age of Members in Units: 1962

Mean Age of Members Per Unit	Number of Units	Percent
20 - 29 years	50	4
30 - 39 years	410	36
40 - 49 years	437	39
50 - 59 years	187	17
60 - 69 years	42	4
70 - 79 years	2	a
Total	1,128	100
Mean	42.9	

[a] Less than 1.0 percent

Years of school completed by members

While it is possible from the data to analyze the entire scale of years of school completed, it was decided that for this study attention would be given only to one index of years of school completed, namely the percent of unit membership completing more than 12 years of school (or more than high school). In view of the general rise of the educational level in New York State, the use of this index was considered appropriate. Slightly over one-fifth of the average unit's members had gone beyond high school. The reverse side of this index is that in the average unit almost four-fifths of its members would have completed 12 or less years of school (Table 5).

The important fact is that most units have some women with beyond high school training. This has implications in the selection of leaders for teaching unit projects. It also has implications for upgrading subject matter. While there is only one unit which had 100 percent of its members with educational experience beyond high school, 267 units have from 30 to 69 percent of their members who have completed over 12 years of school. This is almost one-fourth (23 percent) of all of the units.

Work of members outside of the home

About one-fifth of the members of the average unit reported working outside the home (Table 6). Only 66 units, or 6 percent of the total, had no women in them who worked outside the home. Thus, a good majority of the units had some women in their membership who worked outside the home. Undoubtedly, this mixture of women not working and working outside the home may create problems of scheduling meetings as well as cross-currents of interests and needs. When a unit, as is true of 250 units, has from 30 to 59 percent ot its members who work outside the home, the problems of accommodation may be quite serious. Only 4 of the 1,128 units approached a state in which women with outside work were really predominant (70 - 79 percent).

Organizational activity of members

The average unit has a membership with an average of 1.2 organizations in which they consider themselves active (Table 7).

Table 5. Number and Percentage Distribution of Home Demonstration Units For Sample of 27 Counties In New York State According to Percent of Members of Units Completing More Than 12 Years of School: 1962

Percent of Members Per Unit Completing More Than 12 Years of School	Number of Units	Percent
None completing more than 12 years	99	9
1 - 9	159	14
10 - 19	320	28
20 - 29	267	25
30 - 39	127	11
40 - 49	72	6
50 - 59	47	4
60 - 69	21	2
70 - 79	11	1
80 - 89	3	a
90 - 99	1	a
100	1	a
Total	1,123	100
Mean	21.8	

[a] Less than 1.0 percent

Table 6. Number and Percentage Distribution of Home Demonstration Units for Sample of 27 Counties In New York State According to Percent of Members Per Unit Working Outside Home: 1962

Percent of Members Per Unit Working Outside Home	Number of Units	Percent
None	66	6
1 - 9	152	13
10 - 19	346	31
20 - 29	301	27
30 - 39	149	13
40 - 49	72	6
50 - 59	29	3
60 - 69	9	1
70 - 79	4	a
Total	1,128	100
Mean	21.1	

[a] Less than 1.0 percent

Thus, the average unit does not appear to face too serious competition from other organizations. Perhaps, the 123 units which have an average from 2.0 to 4.9 organizations in which their members are active have problems of competition with other organizations.

Table 7. Number and Percentage Distribution of Home Demonstration Units for Sample of 27 Counties In New York State According to Mean Number Per Unit of Organizations In Which Members Are Active: 1962

Mean Number Per Unit of Organizations In Which Members Are Active	Number of Units	Percent
None	3	a
0.1 - 0.9	376	33
1.0 - 1.9	626	56
2.0 - 2.9	112	10
3.0 - 3.9	9	1
4.0 - 4.9	2	a
Total	1,128	100
Mean	1.2	

[a] Less than 1.0 percent

Percentage of members' children according to age[1]

The age groupings of children used in this analysis are (1) under 6, (2) 6 to 12, (3) 13 to 19, and (4) 20 and over. When the units are distributed by percentage of women having children in each of these four age groups, there are relatively few units which have members with no children in any of the four age groups (Table 8). Likewise, the number of units with all of the women in them having children in any of four age groups is small. The average percent of women with children 6 to 12 years of age is highest per unit, 40.9, and

[1] The data presented below for units is discrete for each age group, and it is, therefore, impossible to add the averages for the purpose of obtaining a 100 percent total. The percentages are all based on the same total, but any one woman may have had children in more than one age group.

Table 8. Number and Percentage Distribution of Home Demonstration Units For Sample of 27 Counties In New York State According to Percent of Women Per Unit With Children Under 6, 6 to 12, 13 to 19, and 20 and Over: 1962

Percent of Women Per Unit	With Children Under 6 Years		With Children 6-12 Yrs. of Age		With Children 13-19 Yrs. of Age		With Children 20 and over	
	No. of Units	Percent	No. of Units	Percent	No. of Units	Percent	No. of Units	Percent
None	83	7	25	2	50	4	124	11
1 - 9	97	9	57	5	72	6	107	9
10 - 19	133	12	103	9	196	17	155	14
20 - 29	157	13	152	13	260	24	126	11
30 - 39	164	14	201	18	248	23	176	16
40 - 49	123	11	177	16	156	14	131	12
50 - 59	115	10	190	17	95	8	150	13
60 - 69	99	9	131	12	37	3	80	7
70 - 79	77	7	60	5	12	1	58	5
80 - 89	40	4	23	2	1	a	18	2
90 - 99	20	2	6	1	-	-	2	a
100	20	2	3	a	1	-	1	a
Total	1,128	100	1,128	100	1,128	100	1,128	100
Means	38.0		40.9		29.8		32.9	

[a]Less than 1.0 percent

the average percent of women with children 13 to 19 years of age is lowest. Generally, between one-third and two-fifths of the members of the average unit will have children in at least one of the four age groups. This means that each unit tends to be a composite of women with varied responsibilities for children which may call for considerable flexibility in projects dealing with child development particularly, and possibly in clothing, nutrition, and management.

Percentages of husbands of members according to occupation

The average home demonstration unit has an occupational composition as follows (See also Table 9):

	Percent
1. Professional; technical and kindred; managers; officials; proprietors, except farm.....	34.4
2. Craftsmen; foremen and kindred; operators and kindred.....	29.9
3. Farmers; farm managers.....	14.2
4. Clerical and kindred; sales.....	9.3
5. Service, including private household workers.....	2.7
6. Laborers except mine; farm laborers and foremen..	1.6
7. Retired.....	7.5
8. Not employed.....	0.4

At each end of this array (excluding the retired and not employed), there is clearly a status ranking. Thus, the highest percent of members' husbands in the average unit is in the professional class[1] while the lowest percent of husbands is in the labor group. The four occupational groups with the lower percentages have especially high percentages of units in

[1] Throughout this discussion of occupations of husbands, the first word in each occupational group appearing in Table 9 is used to designate the group.

Table 9. Number and Percentage Distribution of Home Demonstration Units For Sample of 27 Counties In New York State According to Percent of Women Per Unit With Husbands In Various Occupational Groups: 1962

Percent of Women Per Unit	Occupational Groups															
	Professional; technical and kindred; managers; officials; proprietors, except farm		Craftsmen; foremen and kindred; operators and kindred		Farmers; farm managers		Clerical and kindred; sales		Service, including private household workers		Laborers, except mine; farm laborers and foremen		Retired		Not employed	
	No. of Units	Percent	No. of Units	Percent	No. of Units	Percent	No. of Units	Percent	No. of Units	Percent	No. of Units	Percent	No. of Units	Percent	No. of Units	Percent
None	62	5	72	6	501	45	362	32	754	67	892	79	585	52	1067	95
1 - 9	80	7	71	6	145	13	279	25	274	24	180	16	205	18	48	4
10 - 19	199	18	208	19	138	12	324	29	87	8	48	4	194	17	10	1
20 - 29	230	21	250	23	116	10	126	11	10	1	8	1	82	7	2	a
30 - 39	140	12	195	17	89	8	26	2	3	a	-	-	30	3	1	a
40 - 49	125	11	139	12	61	5	8	1	-	-	-	-	18	2	-	-
50 - 59	96	9	116	10	40	4	2	a	-	-	-	-	7	1	-	-
60 - 69	86	8	46	4	21	2	1	a	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-
70 - 79	62	5	23	2	10	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
80 - 89	28	2	8	1	5	a	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
90 - 99	9	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
100	11	1	-	-	2	a	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	1128	100	1128	100	1128	100	1128	100	1128	100	1128	100	1128	100	1128	100
Means	34.4		29.9		14.2		9.3		2.7		1.6		7.5		0.4	

[a] Less than 1.0 percent

which there is no representation. Thus, seventy-nine percent of the units have no laborers, 67 percent no service workers, 45 percent no farmers, and 32 percent no clerical workers. It should be noted that the average unit has 7.5 percent of members' husbands who are retired. Only a negligible percent (0.4) of the members in the average unit have husbands who are not employed. If the Home Demonstration Department is to reach these groups, perhaps some organizational approach other than the unit is required. Or, if the unit is considered one of the instruments that may be used, it will require organizing new units or challenging the old units to attempt to include these groups in their memberships.

There are only a few (13) units whose members' husbands are all in one occupational class (excluding, of course, the retired and not employed). All husbands of the women in 11 units are in the professional class and in two units all are in the farmer class. An examination of this group of units in terms of participation and program emphasis might throw light on how an occupationally homogeneous group conducts its educational activities.

Combinations of occupations of members' husbands

In only 17 units, or 1.5 percent of the total, did the husbands fall into only one occupational class. Thirteen of these units were in the professional class, two in the craftsmen class, and two in the farmer class.[1] The percentages in Table 10 under each occupational class are the average percent of husbands for the units in that class. Two of the one-class averages are less than 100 percent because there are retired or not gainfully employed husbands in some of the units in these classes.

Units with husbands of members in three occupational classes are the most numerous with 397 units, or 35.2 percent of the 1,128 units falling in this category. The professional

[1] There is no disagreement between this and the preceding paragraph. The 13 units in the first paragraph all had 100 percent of the husbands in one occupational class (11 in the professional and two in the farmer). All employed husbands in four additional units were in one class (two in the professional and two in the craftsmen). Each of these four units also had either retired or unemployed husbands or both.

Table 10. Number and Percentage Distribution of Home Demonstration Units For Sample of 27 Counties In New York State According to Number of Occupations Of Husbands Represented In Each Unit and According to Patterns of Combinations Of Specific Occupational Classes With Average (Mean) Percent For Each Occupation Involved In A Combination: 1962

Number of Occupations of Husbands Represented In Unit	Number of Units	Percent	Occupational Combinations According To Number of Occupations With Average Percent For Each: 1 Professional; technical and kindred; managers; officials; proprietors, except farm	2 Craftsmen; foremen and kindred; operators and kindred	3 Farmers; farm managers	4 Clerical and kindred; sales	5 Service, including private household workers	6 Laborers, except mine; farm laborers and foremen	Average (Mean) Percent Retired For Each Combination[a]	Average (Mean) Percent Not Employed For Each Combination[a]	Totals	Percent
One Occupation	17	1.5	91.2	53.5	100.0				2.5 46.5 -	6.2 - -	13 2 2	1.2 0.2 0.2
Two Occupations	100	8.9	40.0 74.3 52.7	38.1 23.0 75.0 37.0 43.6	43.4 48.4 71.0	19.7 25.0	8.0	25.0 14.0	16.6 6.0 7.8 69.0 - 38.0 8.1 15.0	- - 1.5 - - - 1.9 -	5 30 41 1 1 2 19 1	0.4 2.7 3.6 0.1 0.1 0.2 1.7 0.1
Three Occupations	397	35.2	53.7 25.8 10.5 31.3 49.2 71.4 73.4 38.8 36.0	32.6 30.4 41.7 43.1 34.2 63.0 52.3 41.7 29.8	16.6 29.8 58.0 58.0 35.2 33.3 48.2	18.7 15.7 17.6 15.5 11.2 16.0	10.0 10.6 11.0 8.0	10.5 6.7 6.0 9.6 15.5 17.3 11.2	11.0 11.6 21.0 4.0 4.6 1.0 - 9.2 10.3 18.6 4.0 14.3 17.0 6.6	- .3 - - .2 - - .7 - 1.1 7.5 - - 4.2	7 118 2 3 195 7 2 12 25 13 2 3 3 9	0.6 10.4 0.2 0.3 17.2 0.6 0.2 1.1 2.2 1.2 0.2 0.3 0.3 0.4
Four Occupations	392	34.8	29.8 28.9 21.1 40.0 31.0 35.4	29.0 28.1 31.7 31.8 39.3 39.2 14.0 50.0 39.0	21.8 24.6 30.5 43.5 11.0 23.0	12.0 13.5 16.4 14.8 17.4	8.9 8.7 8.8 8.5 14.5	8.7 7.2 7.6 6.5 9.5	7.0 9.1 7.8 5.4 6.1 9.0 18.8 13.0 14.0	.3 .6 .1 .6 - - .5 2.0 -	164 40 36 110 39 5 4 2 3	14.4 3.5 3.2 9.7 3.6 0.4 0.4 0.2 0.2
Five Occupations	183	16.2	26.2 27.0 18.0 29.3	31.1 27.1 27.9 36.8	16.9 19.8 29.7	11.5 10.8 13.0	7.2 7.0 9.0	7.2 7.5 6.1	7.0 8.1 9.2 5.5	0.2 0.1 0.5 .2	89 49 24 21	7.9 4.3 2.1 1.9
Six Occupations	22	3.4	22.9	28.2	21.4	10.5	5.5	5.2	6.2	0.1	22	3.4
Total	1128	100.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1128	100.0

[a] These percentages are for all the units in each combination. In a number of instances, there are some units in a combination which have no retired or unemployed husbands or both.

and craftsmen are the two occupational groupings which occur most frequently in combination with two other groups which are largely scattered among the other four occupational groups.

Units with husbands in four occupational groups are almost as numerous as units with three such groups, 392 units, or 34.8 percent of the total. Again the professional and craftsmen groups are the two which occur most frequently in these four occupational units.

Of course, the most heterogeneous units are those with five or six occupations plus some retired husbands and a few who are not employed. There are 183, or 16.2 percent of the total, which are five occupational units, and 39, or 3.4 percent of the total, which are six occupational units. While the data given in Table 10 does not present by units combinations involving retired and not employed husbands, for each combination the average percent of retired and not employed husbands is given. Included, however, in these averages are units which have no husbands in one or both of these categories. None of the occupational combinations has any large percent of not employed husbands; however, for some combinations the percentages of retired husbands are large. The average percent is 6.2 and in three instances is over one-third.

The relative distribution of the six occupational groups among the units is shown in the tabulation below:

	Number of Units Within Occupational Group	Percent of Total No. of Units (N=1,128)
1. Professional; technical and kindred; managers; officials; proprietors, except farm	1,066	94.5
2. Craftsmen; foremen and kindred; operators and kindred	1,056	93.6
3. Clerical and kindred; sales	766	67.9
4. Farmers; farm managers	627	55.6
5. Service, including private household workers	374	33.2
6. Laborers except mine; farm laborers and foremen	236	20.9

The professional and craftsmen classes are represented in nearly all of the 1,128 units, the clerical class in two-thirds of them, the farmers in a little over half, the service in only one-third, and laborers in a little over one-fifth.

The meaning of this occupationally heterogeneity of the units can be conjectured only. At least, it would seem, in some instances, to present problems of common interests and needs. As has been observed previously, the relatively smaller frequency of women whose husbands come from the service and labor groups presents a challenge to home demonstration workers to make conscious efforts to extend the unit organization to these women or invent other means of reaching them.

APPENDIX A

Front of Membership Card

Name _____ Unit _____
(Last) (First) County _____

Birth date _____
(mo. day yr.)

Check: ☐ married ☐ unmarried ☐ widowed ☐ other

If married, husband's work _____

Are you now working outside your home? ☐ yes ☐ previously, not now
☐ no

If you have worked outside your home, what work? _____

Check where you live: ☐ city ☐ country, on a farm
☐ village ☐ country, not on a farm

Have you children? ☐ yes If yes, how many under 6 yrs _____
☐ no how many 6-12 yrs _____
how many 13-19 yrs _____
how many over 19 yrs _____

Have you grandchildren? ☐ yes If yes, list their ages _____
☐ no

(over)

Back of Membership Card

How long have you been a member of your unit? _____

Check experiences you have had in Home Demonstration work:
- ☐ chairman of unit
- ☐ leader in a subject matter
  List which _____
- ☐ member of unit executive comm.
- ☐ member of county executive comm.

Check the educational experiences you have had:
- ☐ grades 3-6 (elementary school)
- ☐ grades 7-8 (junior high school)
- ☐ grades 9-12 (high school)
- ☐ two years of college (junior college)
- ☐ four years of college

Check, also, training had:
- ☐ nursing training
- ☐ teaching training
- ☐ business training
- ☐ other: List ____

List community organizations in which you actively participate:

_____ _____

_____ _____

_____ _____

ERIC Clearinghouse
MAR 19 1968
on Adult Education